INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US2004/040091

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C10G67/08 C10G67/14 C10G17/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C10G Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. US 3 681 233 A (IVOR W. MILLS ET AL) 1 - 131 August 1972 (1972-08-01) column 4, line 35 - line 43 column 5, line 20 - line 30 column 5, line 69 - line 71 column 6, line 43 - line 55 US 3 340 181 A (DIRINGER MONTY L ET AL) 1-8, 10,5 September 1967 (1967-09-05) column 3, line 11 - line 34 column 4, line 1 - line 3; claim 1; table X US 2 944 015 A (RAUSCH MAURICE K ET AL) 1,3, 5 July 1960 (1960-07-05) 6-10,12column 3, line 3 - line 15 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention E earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docuother means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 21 February 2005 01/03/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA **Authorized officer** European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Deurinck, P Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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